As this issue of *Music @ Michigan* goes to press, we have word from the U-M Board of Regents approving our proposal to change our name to the:

**University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance**

Coming on the heels of our year-long celebration of the School’s first 125 years, the name change both honors those years and anticipates the next 125 by more accurately reflecting who we are. For over two decades we have been, in fact, a school of multiple disciplines, with the Department of Dance joining us from Physical Education in 1974 and the Department of Theatre & Drama joining us in 1984 from LS&A, where it had been the Department of Speech Communication and Theatre (see School of Music Timeline, inside, for more SoM history).

While each part of the school remains a discrete and excellent entity in its own right, with its own curriculum and focus, the nature of the work in all three areas has become increasingly collaborative. Our staged productions incorporate lighting, costuming, and stage design, but also require musical direction, coaching, conducting, and ensemble support. As students come to us with a greater appetite for collaborative art, we have aspired to a name that recognizes the importance of all three facets of the performing arts.

We remain fully committed to providing the best possible concentrated education in the individual performance, academic, and educational disciplines of the School, even as we also recognize that Michigan offers unparalleled opportunities for students to learn what they love in a larger context—a context that comprises the world of ideas a great university like Michigan provides, in a School which embraces the entire range of the performing arts.

As we enter the second 125 years of this remarkable School of Music, we find much to celebrate.

- As evidenced on the cover of this issue, we are celebrating four Grammys for our own William Bolcom’s *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*, performed here at Hill Auditorium in April of 2004 by our orchestra and chorus.
- One of our recent graduates, Carolyn Jantsch, has just been named principal tubist with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the ripe old age of 20.
- We are exhilarated about two new additions to our faculty, Richard Aaron, recognized as one of the leading teachers of cello in the world, and Jeffrey Lyman, a leading teacher, artist, and scholar of the bassoon.
- We have just announced the formation of Block M Records, whereby music created at this institution can be preserved for posterity and distributed widely, with copyright control staying close to home. A corresponding development, affiliation with iTunes, will offer School of Music works via their Web site.

Look for stories on these subjects and more inside, and stay tuned for other noteworthy developments in future editions.

All best,

Christopher Kendall, Dean